Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)
15. (previously presented) An in vitro assay to determine the ability of a substance to inhibit the association of UL8 and POL wherein "UL8" is defined as UL8 of HSV-1 or the homologues thereof in other herpesviruses and "POL" is defined as POL of HSV-1 or the homologues thereof in other herpesviruses, said assay comprising:

i) providing a first viral component consisting of UL8;

ii) providing a second viral component consisting of POL;

iii) exposing said first viral component to said substance followed by addition of the second viral component, or exposing said second viral component to said substance followed by addition of the said first viral component, or exposing the first viral component to said second viral component followed by said substance;

iv) washing to remove any second viral component and/or substance not associated with the first viral component; and

v) detecting the presence, and optionally determining the amount, of associated first and second viral components.

16. (previously presented) The assay as claimed in Claim 15 wherein UL8 of HSV-1 is the first viral component, and POL of HSV-1 is the second viral component.

17. (previously presented) The assay as claimed in Claim 15 wherein one of UL102 of HCMV is the first viral component and UL54 of HCMV is the second viral component.

18. (previously presented) The assay as claimed in Claim 15 wherein one of said first and second viral components is localised on a surface.

19. (previously presented) The assay as claimed in Claim 15 wherein an antibody is used to detect associated of said viral components.

20. (previously presented) An in vitro assay to determine the ability of a candidate substance to inhibit the association of POL and a substance wherein "POL" is defined as POL of HSV-1 or the homologues thereof in other herpesviruses, said assay comprising:

i) providing a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of at least one of;

a) VFTGVLAGVWGEGGKFVYPFDDKMSFLFA (SEQ ID NO: 5);

b) IELVFTGVLAGVWGEGGKFV (SEQ ID NO: 7);

c) DEWVRSLAVDAQHAAKRVASEGLRFFRLNA

(SEQ ID NO: 11); and

d) TWLEERDEWVRSLAVDAQHAARRVAS (SEQ ID NO: 12).

i) providing a viral component consisting of POL;

ii) exposing said polypeptide to said substance followed by addition of the viral component, or exposing said viral component to said substance followed by addition of the said polypeptide, or exposing said viral component to said polypeptide followed by said substance;

iii) washing to remove any viral component and/or substance not associated with the polypeptide; and

v) detecting the presence, and optionally determining the amount of associated polypeptide and viral component.

21. (previously presented) An antiviral agent which prevents or hinders replication of a herpesvirus in vitro by specifically binding to POL or UL8 thus inhibiting the association between UL8 and POL, wherein "UL8" is defined as UL8 of HSV-1 or the homologues thereof in other herpesviruses and "POL" is defined as POL of HSV-1 or homologues thereof in other herpesviruses.

22. (previously presented) An antiviral agent as claimed in Claim 21 which mimics the C-terminal alpha-helical region or the C-terminal tail of UL8.

23. (previously presented) An antiviral agent as claimed in Claim 21 which is a peptide having a sequence corresponding to the sequence forming the C-terminal tail or the C-terminal alpha-helical region of UL8.

24. (previously presented) An antiviral agent as claimed in Claim 21, said agent being a non-peptidal compound which mimics a peptide obtained from the C-terminal

tail and/or the alpha-helix portion of the C-terminus of UL8.

25. (previously presented) An antiviral agent which prevents or hinders replication of a herpesvirus in vitro by specifically binding to POL or UL8, thus inhibiting the association between UL8 and POL, wherein "UL8" is defined as UL8 of HSV-1 or homologues thereof in other herpesvirus and "POL" is defined as POL of HSV-1 or homologues thereof in other herpesvirus; wherein said agent comprises a non-peptidal compound which mimics a peptide having an amino acid sequence selected from the group of sequences consisting of:

a) VFTGVLAGVWGEGGKFVYPFDDKMSFLFA (SEQ ID NO: 5);

b) IELVFTGVLAGVWGEGGKFV (SEQ ID NO: 7);

c) DEWVRSLAVDAQHAAKRVASEGLRFFRLNA (SEQ ID NO: 11); and

d) TWLEERDEWVRSLAVDAQHAARRVAS (SEQ ID NO: 12).

26. (previously presented) A method of preventing replication of a herpesvirus, said method comprising providing an agent able to bind specifically to UL8 or POL thereby inhibiting the association between UL8 and POL in vitro, wherein "UL8" is defined as UL8 of HSV-1 or the homologues thereof in other herpesviruses and "POL" is defined as POL of HSV-1 or the homologues thereof in other herpesvirus, said method comprising adding said agent to said replicating herpesvirus in sufficient quantity to cause said inhibition and monitoring the effect on viral replication and thus determining the presence or extent of said inhibition.

27. (previously presented) A method of treating a patient for an infection caused by a herpesvirus, said method comprising administering to said patient a

therapeutically effect amount of an antiviral agent as claimed in Claim 21.

28. (new) An in vitro assay to determine the ability of a substance to inhibit the association of POL and a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

a) VFTGVLAGVWGEGGKFVYPFDDKMSFLFA (SEQ ID NO: 5);

b) IELVFTGVLAGVWGEGGKFV (SEQ ID NO: 7);

c) DEWVRSLAVDAQHAAKRVASEGLRFFRLNA (SEQ ID NO: 11); and

d) TWLEERDEWVRSLAVDAQHAARRVAS (SEQ ID NO: 12).

wherein "POL" is defined as POL of HSV-1 or the homologues thereof in other herpesviruses, said assay comprising:

i) providing said polypeptide;

ii) exposing said polypeptide to said substance followed by addition of POL, or exposing POL to said substance followed by addition of the said polypeptide, or exposing POL to said polypeptide followed by said substance;

iii) washing to remove any POL and/or substance not associated with the polypeptide; and

v) detecting the presence, and optionally determining the amount, of associated polypeptide and POL.